

Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group

Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2008

Summary

Epidemiology Work Group Members in Attendance (9):

Amy Stuart, Administrative Office of the Courts
Wendy Wolfersteig, Arizona Prevention Resource Center, Arizona State University
Michelle Anderson, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections
Jody Sekerak, Indian Health Services
Meena Shahi, Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services
Richard Porter, Arizona Department of Health Services
David Choate, proxy for Charles Katz, Arizona State University
Phillip Stevenson, Chair, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
Katherine Guffey, Arizona Department of Economic Security—via conference call

Epidemiology Work Group Members Absent (6):

Dennis Embry, PAXIS Institute
Zeenat Mahal, Epidemiological Center, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona
James Cunningham, University of Arizona
Wesley Kortuem, Arizona Department of Health Services
Catherine Osborn, Arizona Department of Education
Gowri Shetty, Arizona Department of Health Services, Tobacco Education Prevention Program

Governor's Office Staff (1)

Jeanne Blackburn, (GOCYF, DSAP)

Public (3):

Michael Dolny, Arizona Department of Corrections
Steve Gendler, Arizona Department of Public Safety
Michelle Neitch, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Call to Order was made by Phillip Stevenson at 1:13 p.m. after noting that a quorum was present.

Welcome and Introductions

- Phillip Stevenson asked the attendees and guests present to introduce themselves and their respective agency/group.



Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Phillip Stevenson asked if anyone had any changes to the previous month's meeting minutes.
 - Errors to the minutes had already been submitted to, and made by, Jeanne Blackburn prior to the meeting.
- David Choate motioned that the meeting minutes be accepted. Wendy Wolfersteig seconded the motion. When prompted, all members in attendance offered their acceptance of the motion. There were no dissenters. Meeting minutes were accepted.

Announcements

- The Life Path project of the Emerging Issues Subcommittee: Director Branam of ADJC was not happy with releasing the costs associated with these particular cases. However, he is amenable to releasing an overall state total, but not specifying agency costs in relation to treatment, etc. for one person.
 - Michelle Anderson will not be at the Emerging Issues subcommittee meeting on Thursday.
 - Emerging Issues subcommittee needs to talk about the value between having agency vs. total costs – the subcommittee will need to decide whether to exclude agency cost data or have a discussion with Director Branam.
 - Meena Shahi informed the group that the federal government is very interested in seeing the costs related to this (the Life Path project).
 - Director Branam may be more open to it if the directive comes from the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership.
 - DES hasn't gotten relayed their cost data to Michelle Anderson as of this meeting.
- David Choate updated the group on his presentation to the Maricopa County SMI (Seriously Mentally Ill) Commission on the Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network (AARIN) data (co-occurring disorder data) and hopes that this will guide policy decisions.
 - He is hopeful that the report will be published by July 1, 2008. His presentation of the report and its findings is already available on the Arizona State University, Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety's website.
 - The report:
 - Described scope and nature of co-occurring disorder (i.e., the respondents who had substance abuse or dependence and responded yes to one of mental health questions)
 - 28.4% qualified as having a co-occurring disorder – victimization #'s were frightening, co-occurring population had significantly higher rates of victimization, higher arrests, higher incarceration rates
 - Policy implication of this finding is the need for early mental health screenings
 - Question asked by the group on how we get the information that we are learning from AARIN to ASAP?



- Jeanne Blackburn responded that we need to include data and its importance in the executive action briefing on data and possibly make it a separate chapter in the Epidemiology Snapshot document.
 - It was also noted by the group that AARIN has been identified to ASAP through the meth workgroup.
- Phillip Stevenson noted that due to the need for more space for the Epi Work Group meetings, meetings will move to Suite 145 in the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission building with the exception of the October meeting, for which another room will need to be found.

Epi Deliverable: Substantive Area for the 2008 “Snapshot of Arizona” Document

- The group discussed what topics/indicators/data should be included in the report:
 - Given the desire to have the AARIN project highlighted and given the usefulness of the data, the group discussed the need to include AARIN data.
 - Phillip Stevenson indicated that he felt that the Snapshot documents should build upon one other (i.e., make a portion of the report an update on issues that were in last year’s report).
 - Other issues that were noted by Phillip Stevenson and Jeanne Blackburn were:
 - This report should address the topical areas that the group feels are of importance for policymakers to know.
 - There should be consistency between the report and the executive action briefing on data.
- The group discussed:
 - Whether prescription drug abuse warrants its own section.
 - A section on substance abuse issues in Arizona and what is emerging (i.e., an Emerging Trends chapter).
 - Inclusion of major problems that were noted in the Epi Profile.
 - Whether the report should include a section on behavioral health/substance use – co-occurring disorders.
 - Whether there should be a chapter on systems change – integration of mental health and substance abuse treatment; how the mental health system has been transformed into a behavioral health system.
 - This chapter might include integration between substances and behavioral health – integration between agencies as well as within agencies.
- Phillip Stevenson indicated that he envisions the document having four sections – systems change, substance-specific section (include update from last year’s report), emerging issues, data gaps (what has and hasn’t changed).
 - Substance section would be inclusive of alcohol, methamphetamine and ?
- The group was asked to provide Jeanne Blackburn with an outline of the document with their suggestions on chapter, indicators and data sources by July 1, 2008, which she will summarize for the July 16, 2008 meeting.
 - The group will review compiled outline at next meeting.
- The report should be completed by November 1, 2008 for routing through the Governor’s Office and ASAP before the legislative session begins in January, 2009.



- The report should acknowledge the funders of any data sources in the document, such as Maricopa County for the AARIN project.
- Include mention of tribal data in the report, including data gaps (what we are doing, and where we still need to go); and emerging issues.

Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership

- Phillip Stevenson indicated to the group that it would be focusing on the Executive Action Briefing, entitled “The Need for Data Driven Decision Making and Policy Development.”
 - The group made changes to the document based on discussion of what was a sensible workload and what could be accomplished in a reasonable timeframe.
 - Jeanne Blackburn indicated that she would update the document with corrections and revisions and send it back to the group when it was completed.

Call to Public

- There were members of the public present. However, there were no comments from the guests in attendance.

Adjourn at 3:05 p.m. (Wendy Wolfersteig motioned and Richard Porter seconded the motion) with a reminder that the next meeting will be held on July 16, 2008.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF, DSAP).